

**Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for the Heliotrope Milkvetch (*Astragalus montii*) for Review and Comment**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of a draft recovery plan for the Heliotrope milkvetch (*Astragalus montii*). The Heliotrope milkvetch occurs in Sanpete and Sevier Counties, Utah. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft recovery plan.

**DATES:** Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before November 27, 1995, to ensure they receive consideration by the Service.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lincoln Plaza, Suite 404, 145 East 1300 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115. Written comments and materials regarding this plan should be sent to the Field Supervisor at the Salt Lake City address given above. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John L. England, Botanist (see **ADDRESSES** above), at telephone 801/524-5001.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Background

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires the development or recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and

comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies also will take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The Heliotrope milkvetch is a perennial, herbaceous plant in the legume family (Fabaceae). The species is very low growing, nearly stemless plant approximately 1 to 5 centimeters (0.4 to 2 inches) tall, with two to eight pinkish purple flowers with white wing-tips. The species range includes Heliotrope Mountain in Sanpete County, Utah, and White Mountain in Sevier County, Utah. Currently, three populations are known with a total population of approximately 200,000 individuals, occupying a total area of about 400 acres.

The Heliotrope milkvetch (*Astragalus montii*) was listed as a threatened species on November 6, 1987 (52 FR 42657), under the authority of the Act. Critical habitat has been designated for the species western Heliotrope Mountain population. This species was listed due to its limited habitat and small population size, and to current and potential threats from grazing and oil and gas surface disturbing activities to the species habitat. The goal of the recovery plan is to maintain viable populations of the species at its known sites to ensure the species survival, and to guide recovery efforts to facilitate delisting of the species. Recovery efforts will focus on protecting the species population and habitat from habitat destroying activities through the sections 7 and 9 prohibitions of the Act for plant species. Biological and ecological research of the species' biology and its relationship and interaction with its environment is necessary to guide future management of the species population and habitat to ensure its continued survival and the preservation of the species ecosystem. Additional recovery efforts will focus on inventory of potential habitat and minimum viable population studies of its known populations.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described above. All comments received by the date specified in the **DATES** section above will be considered prior to approval of the recovery plan.

Authority: The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: September 21, 1995.

Elliott N. Sutta,

*Acting Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 95-23944 Filed 9-26-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-55-M

**Notice of Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for the Louisiana Quillwort Fern for Review and Comment**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability and public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of a draft recovery plan for the Louisiana quillwort (*Isoetes louisianensis*). This quillwort is only known from eight locations in two parishes in southeastern Louisiana (St. Tammany and Washington Parishes). It is restricted to sandy soils and gravel bars in or near shallow blackwater streams in riparian woodland/bayhead forest areas of pine flatwoods. All sites are located on private land. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft plan.

**DATES:** Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before November 15, 1995 to receive consideration by the Service.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Jackson Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A. Jackson, Mississippi 39213. Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to the Field Supervisor at the above address. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Cary Norquist at the above address (601/965-4900, ext. 28).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Background

Restoring endangered or threatened animals and plants to the point where they are again secure, self-sustaining members of their ecosystems is a primary goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions

considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that a public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The species considered in this draft recovery plan is the Louisiana quillwort (*Isoetes louisianensis*). This small, semi-aquatic plant is in a family of primitive seedless plants closely related to ferns (Isoetaceae). It occurs in the East Gulf Coast Physiographic Province in shallow, sandy blackwater streams in riparian woodland/bayhead forest areas included in a landscape of pine flatwoods. It is currently known only from St. Tammany and Washington Parishes in southeastern Louisiana where it occurs on private land. This species is extremely vulnerable because of its small population size and restricted range. Any activity which would affect the hydrology or stability of the streams in which the plant occurs, such as gravel mining and timbering (without the use of Best Management Practices), could potentially affect this species.

The objective of this proposed plan is to delist the Louisiana quillwort. Delisting will be considered when 10 viable and geographically distinct populations from separate drainages are protected. Actions needed to reach this goal include: (1) Protecting and monitoring populations; (2) surveying for new populations; (3) conducting life history studies; and (4) educating the public on the conservation needs of this species. After consideration of comments received during the review period, it will be submitted for final approval.

#### Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of the plan.

Authority: The authority for this action is Section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: September 21, 1995.

Linda LaClaire,

*Acting Field Supervisor.*

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#### Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for the Utah Pediocactus: San Rafael Cactus (*Pediocactus despainii*) and Winkler Cactus (*Pediocactus winkleri*) for Review and Comment

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of document availability.

**SUMMARY:** The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of a draft recovery plan for the Utah Pediocactus: San Rafael Cactus (*Pediocactus despainii*) and Winkler Cactus (*Pediocactus winkleri*). The two cacti occur in Emery and Wayne Counties, Utah. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft recovery plan.

**DATES:** Comments on the draft recovery plan must be received on or before November 27, 1995, to ensure they receive consideration by the Service.

**ADDRESSES:** Persons wishing to review the draft recovery plan may obtain a copy by contacting the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lincoln Plaza, Suite 404, 145 East 1300 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115. Written comments and materials regarding this plan should be sent to the Field Supervisor at the Salt Lake City address given above. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John L. England, Botanist (see **ADDRESSES** above), at telephone 801/524-5001.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for

recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the Act, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during recovery plan development. The Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other Federal agencies also will take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The San Rafael cactus is a small, leafless, stem succulent, with yellowish to peach color flowers 1.5 to 2.5 cm (0.6 to 1.0 in) long and 1.8 to 2.5 cm (0.7 to 1.0 in) in diameter. The San Rafael cactus is restricted to the San Rafael Swell of central Emery County, Utah, and is known from three populations with a total number of individuals estimated to be about 20,000.

The Winkler cactus is a small, leafless, stem cactus with peach to pink flowers borne on the upper end of the tubercles near the apex of the stem. The flowers are 1.7 to 2.2 cm (0.7 to 0.9 in) long and 1.7 to 3.0 cm (0.7 to 1.2 in) in diameter. The Winkler cactus is restricted to Wayne and Emery Counties, Utah, and is known from six populations with a total number of individuals estimated to be about 5,000.

The San Rafael cactus was listed as an endangered species under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), on September 16, 1987 (52 FR 34917). The Winkler cactus was proposed for listing as an endangered species under the authority of the Act on October 6, 1993 (58 FR 52062). The final rule listing the Winkler cactus has been held up in the recent moratorium on listing actions. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) expects to publish the final rule once the moratorium is lifted. For that reason, and because the Service is also preparing multispecies recovery plans and recovery plans that address candidate species where appropriate, the Winkler cactus is included in this recovery plan.

These species were listed due to being highly desirable specimen plants for cactus collections, their limited habitat and small population size, and to current and potential threats from off-road vehicle use, trampling by both